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NOTE ON OUR ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

THERE have been various proposals before the public for several years back, having in view the improvement of the steamship service between Canada and Great Britain. The subject has been discussed frequently in the press, it has engaged the attention of Parliament, and large subsidies have been voted in order to secure a Canadian line of steamships, not inferior in build and speed to any on the ocean.

The means of communication between Canada and Great Britain is a national question, and every individual who has a word to say, who has a fact to produce or an opinion to express, should not hesitate to give expression to it in some form. It is surely of high importance to the Dominion and the Empire that we should take the fullest advantage of the geographical position which Canada occupies on this Continent.

In common with every Canadian I feel a lively interest in this question. My interest is not lessened by the fact that I have crossed the Atlantic a great many times, at all seasons of the year, in every kind of weather, and by every route usually travelled; that I have witnessed, throughout a period of more than fifty years, the development of transatlantic steam navigation from very small beginnings to the magnificent passenger-ships of today; that I have myself crossed the ocean in all kinds of craft, from the old Quebec timber ship up to the Great Eastern; that I have made the voyage in the first half of the century at an average speed from port to port of less than three miles an hour, and within the present year at more than twenty miles an hour, the voyage in the one case occupying six weeks, and in the other less than one week.

It having been my privilege to enjoy opportunities of becoming familiar with the ocean voyage, I feel it my duty to submit the views I have formed, in order simply that they may be added, as my contribution, to what is known on the subject.

We all recognise that the river and estuary of the St. Lawrence